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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION 25X1

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The six hundred thousand Japanese prisoners taken by the Soviets were divided into battalions of one thousand men. One battalion was assigned to a camp, making approximately 600 camps. The camps were spread geographically into at least five areas but it is possible that there were more.

Each area was broken down into districts and the camps were numbered within the district. 25X1

The number five designates the area, one designates the district and 01 designates the camp.

the camps in the fifth area were all very similar as to size and structure. the Magadan area camps were the same as to size and structure. The camps were usually square shaped and approximately 400 feet square. There was a double row of wire fences with an approximate 12-foot corridor between the fences and at each corner within the corridor was a guard tower. The camps situated near cities and just south of Komsomolsk had double wire fences, whereas all camps north of Komsomolsk and those not near populated areas had outer fences made of wooden boards. The boards were eight to 10 feet high above the ground, were two to three feet into the ground, and were between two and three inches thick, rough cut with picket-type tops. The boards were braced on the leeward side against strong winds.

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25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

All the camps in the fifth area had log cabin buildings. They had been used previously as slave-labor camps, and all were in very poor condition when my battalion, No 25, arrived. Mud had fallen out of the chinks, and the first winter there (1945-1946) spare time was spent filling the holes and plastering the inside of the buildings. This clean-up and repair work was compulsory but we were not allowed to do it during our regular work day. The prisoners were glad to do this work in their spare time, however, which was only at night, because it made the buildings so much warmer and easier to keep clean. The second year (1946) ordered to plaster the outside of the log cabins and to calcimine them white, which gave the appearance of white stucco buildings. Because of the great length of the winter, the white buildings were well camouflaged most of the year. By the end of 1946 most of the renovation of the camps was completed.

The first camp was No 5/101 (October 1945) located at Dohf /Dofu - Japanese phonetic spelling it was obvious that the camp had been recently occupied as there was fresh garbage and other evidence on the premises. extremely crowded and in early 1946 an additional 200 PW's were brought in making quarters almost unbearable. this was only temporary and after approximately 30 days moved to another camp approximately one mile west. This camp, No 5/111 accommodated a few more but it was still very much overcrowded. After just completing the renovation of camp 5/101, had to start renovation of camp 5/111, which was even in worse condition. camp 5/101 was to be used as a technical school for the maintenance and operation of motors and vehicles. Vehicles and other equipment were being moved into the camp, and the corridor between the two wire fences was being used as a run-way for testing vehicles. this technical school was training Soviet "heavy" convicts (long-time hardened criminals).

camp 5/103 was located five miles north of camp 5/101. It was the same size and the same structure as the others. In the vicinity of this camp was a large "Sovkhoz", a government-owned farm. Approximately 300 prisoners worked on this farm. The prisoners most willing to accept Communism were those chosen to work on the farm. Many of the prisoners said they would accept Communism in order to work there as farm work was much more pleasant than railroading and logging.

camp 5/202 situated near Hormoli (Khurmuli). While on the move to Hormoli, there were five or six camps between 5/102 and 5/202, which were all similar to the others seen. The buildings at camp 5/202 were slightly smaller than those at the other camps, but 200 men still occupied each building. The camp was on the northern outskirts of Hormoli and was well secluded in the foothills of the mountains. Hormoli is situated in the foothills of a mountain range which extended north of the city. Because the hills serve as an excellent camouflage, the food distribution center at Dohf, as well as the NKVD headquarters, were moved to Hormoli.

The BAM /Baikal-Amur-Magistral/ Railroad ran northwest from Hormoli to Gorin. Along this route camps every 10 or 12 miles. Approximately 15 miles northwest of Gorin was another camp, near one little town of Eharin, which was numbered 5/407. only a short distance away the

railroad turned due west toward Lake Baikal to tie in with the Trans-Siberian Railroad.

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2.

At each camp, two squads of soldiers, totalling about 30 men, one officer, sometimes two, and two to four non-commissioned officers were detailed as guards. They were armed with rifles and fixed bayonets. When we moved from a camp, riflemen were at the head and rear of the column, and the guards on the sides of the columns carried Burp guns. The Soviet officer in charge of the camp lived nearby. After the first year, some of these officers were replaced by civilians. In 1946, these officers received their orders daily, and they knew no more about future plans than the daily orders disclosed. These daily orders were placed in a metal tube and dropped from a plane.

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a political agent was attached to the camp. from Moscow and the agent was usually a Soviet officer. He was greatly respected and feared by all the security personnel.

3.

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Even though a battalion of one thousand men was assigned to each camp, the approximate capacity of all the camps was 800. They were, of course, always overcrowded, which resulted in a great deal of discomfort for the prisoners. Occasionally, additional small groups were sent to a camp, but this was usually only temporary. Also, deaths resulting from freezing, malnutrition, and a lack of medical care sometimes brought the number of prisoners down to the usual size group.

4.

Water supply was the greatest problem, particularly during the winter months. The water was hauled in by hand and in the winter it was necessary to chop through several feet of ice.

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would go many months without a bath and during the winter could never get enough water for laundry purposes.

One "doctor" was assigned to each camp. Some were good, but some were very incompetent and brutal. About one-half of the "doctors" were Soviet women. These women were often merciless and treated the prisoners more severely than did the men "doctors." In 1948 medical attention improved considerably. More "doctors" were assigned to each camp, and they seemed to be better qualified.

Sanitation was appalling, particularly the first winter (1945 and 1946). This was by far the worst winter for the prisoners, did not have adequate clothing. No clothes were issued whatsoever only the garments possessed when captured. Also, there was a shortage of food the first winter, as much of the food assigned to the prisoners was stolen by the Soviet guards. They divided it between themselves and Soviet civilians inasmuch as they did not have enough food for themselves. The standard ration consisted of 350 grams of black bread, 400 grams of cereal, 25 grams of fish, 12 grams of sugar, 800 grams of vegetable (almost always potatoes) and five grams of oil. This ration never varied throughout my entire five years imprisonment. rarely received any sugar and did not always receive the oil. About three times a year meat was given in place of fish. Until the last couple of years, never received the full ration of the other items, and only occasionally receive full quantities in the last two years. The food also improved somewhat in quality.

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The first six to ten months of my imprisonment, the prisoners were treated very cruelly; but in mid-1946 there was a slight change for the better, and by 1947 there was quite a definite change. The food improved, somewhat better clothing was provided, and recreation was introduced. There was a great deal of discrimination shown between those who accepted Communism and those who remained reactionists, however. A limited number of musical instruments were available, and costumes and other paraphernalia was furnished, sparingly, for plays and shows. The camp political agent supervised the entertainment given by the prisoners. These improvements were, of course, well synchronized with the political indoctrination program.

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